

Message Text

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65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 SAM-01 /111 W

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R 071218Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8201

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13140

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, FR

SUBJ: FRENCH IRKED AT INDIAN CRITICISM

REF: A. NEW DELHI 12691 B. NEW DELHI 12243

1. A FRENCH EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER TOLD US SEPTEMBER 3 ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WAS MIFFED BY THE CRITICISM OF INDIA AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED POWERS AT THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE. IT WAS FURTHER ANNOYED BY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER CHAVAN'S RESPONSES ON THE FLOOR OF THE PARLIAMENT WHEN HE NAMED FRANCE AMONG THE GREAT POWERS HAVING BASES ON THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL (REFTEL). CONSEQUENTLY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS AT THE MEA WHICH HE DID LAST WEEK AT THE ADDITIONAL SECRETARY LEVEL, PRESUMABLY AJMANI WHO IS NOW OVERSEEING WEST EUROPE. AMBASSADOR JEAN-CLAUDE WINCKLER TOLD THE INDIANS THAT THEY COULD NOT EXPECT TO MAKE MINISTERIAL VISITS TO PARIS IF THIS KIND OF CRITICISM CONTINUES. INDUSTRY MINISTER T. N. PAI, WHOSE TRIP TO FRANCE WAS THEN PENDING, SPECIAL ENVOY MOHAMMED YUNNIS, AND DEFENCE PRODUCTION MINISTER VITHAL N. GADGIL HAVE OR HAD PARIS VISITS SCHEDULED, NONE OF WHICH ARE VERY SIGNIFICANT AS FAR AS THE

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FRENCH ARE CONCERNED ACCORDING TO OUR EMBASSY CONTACT

HERE.

2. OUR FRENCH COLLEAGUE ALSO SAID THAT THE PARIS VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER GANDHI HAS BEEN DEFERRED AT LEAST UNTIL EARLY 1977. THE FRENCH RENEWED THE INVITATION IN LATE JUNE. THE INDIANS RESPONDED THAT MRS GANDHI INDEED APPRECIATED THE INVITATION AND WANTED TO COME, BUT THAT SEVERAL OBSTACLES STOOD IN HER WAY. THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE WAS GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT A 1976 VISIT WAS IMPOSSIBLE. THE DEFERRAL OF MRS GANDHI'S VISIT IS NOT RELATED TO FRENCH ANNOYANCE OVER COLOMBO, SAID THE FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER. SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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